

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested. Claims 1-11 are pending, each of the claims having been amended by way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 3, 5-6, 8-9 and 11 were rejected as being unpatentable over Blewett et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,131,141, hereinafter “Blewett”); in view of Cho (U.S. Patent No. 6,922,728, hereinafter “Cho”); Claim 2 is rejected as being unpatentable over Blewett and Cho in view of Ogle et al. (U.S. Patent 6,052,736, hereinafter “Ogle”); Claim 4 was rejected as being unpatentable over Blewett, Cho and in further view of Beck (U.S. Patent No. 6,671,273, hereinafter “Beck”); Claim 7 was rejected as being unpatentable over Blewett, Cho and in further view of Winkler (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0070100); and Claim 10 was rejected as being unpatentable over Blewett, Cho and in further view of Koyanagi et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0013067, hereinafter “Koyanagi”).

Claim 1, for example, has been amended to clarify that access is made to the detected network using a first phase connection and a second phase connection. Previously, the claims have recited “first connection” and “second connection”. However, for clarification, access to the detected network for the information process apparatus is performed in two subsequent phases. The first phase, as explained in the present specification (see e.g., page 12) is when, for example, an information processing apparatus detects a service of a wireless LAN when the information processing apparatus enters the radio wave coverage area provided by the wireless LAN. The second phase connection is made possible through an authentication process that allows the information processing apparatus to use the wireless LAN service. A

more detailed exemplary description is provided at page 12 continuing to page 13. Thus, the language “first phase connection” and “second phase connection” is not new matter.

Likewise, each of the independent claims has been amended to clarify that the detection is performed when the information processing apparatus is moved into a location covered by the detected network. Once again, support is found at page 12 of the present specification and therefore no new matter is added.

Briefly recapitulating, Claim 1, as amended, is directed to an information processing apparatus that includes means for managing settings for connectable networks as profiles on a network-by-network basis. Thus, the profiles correspond with network settings. The apparatus also includes means for detecting a first phase connection to a detected network when the information processing apparatus is moved into a location covered by the detected network. The apparatus then determines whether the managing means manages a managed profile corresponding to the detected network. When a managed profile is determined to correspond with the detected network, a second phase connection is automatically established to the detected network. Finally, a switcher switches access to the detected network using the first phase connection and the second phase connection when a predetermined condition is determined to exist. The switcher includes an icon display mechanism configured to produce an icon on a display that notifies a user that the switcher is in an active process.

An advantage offered by such an apparatus is that it allows for the apparatus to be moved from location to location, and prior to switching network connections a determination is made as to whether or not a profile is managed by the information processing apparatus that corresponds to the detected network that was detected in the first phase connection. When the managed profile is determined to exist, the second phase connection is then

established. This approach avoids problems of conventional wireless LAN and Bluetooth technologies where automatic connections may be established without user intervention (see, e.g., specification at page 2). When connections are established automatically, unaware to the user, the user has difficulty in manually setting connections to the network. Likewise, where numerous hotspots are ubiquitous the user may have difficulty in recognizing whether the plurality of the connections are established, what network the user is connected to, and which network is actually being used for communication.

The Office Action relies on Blewett as disclosing the claimed means for managing settings for connectable networks as profiles on a network-by-network basis. The Office Action asserts for support Figure 1A, Figure 1C and column 6, line 62-66. However, Claim 1 is directed to an apparatus that detects a first phase of a detected network when the information processing apparatus is moved into a location covered by the detected network. In Blewett, a VPN is established from a protected resource network 110 to a worknet 135. Another connection may be established from the protected resource network 110 to a homenet 130. While the security gateway as shown in Figure 1A provides connections to both networks, the connections are established with a protected resource network 110, and none of the apparatuses are moved into a coverage range. Even if the protected resource network 110 were mobile and could be moved in and out of coverage of the security gateway 128, access to either the worknet or the homenet would be available. The claimed managing means in combination with the detecting means, manages settings for the connectable networks such that a first phase connection may be detected on a network when the information processing apparatus is moved into a location covered by the detected network. This is not a feature that is described in Blewett where the security gateway 125 always

provides access to either the worknet or the homenet, and thus there is no detection being performed, nor are the profiles managed for different networks.

Moreover, amended Claim 1 requires determining whether the managing means manages a profile corresponding to the detected network when the detecting means detects the first phase connection to the detected network. Thus, the claim covers a situation where the information processing apparatus is moved into a location covered by the detected network and the detecting means then detects the first phase connection to the detected network, followed by the determination means determining whether a managed profile is managed for the detected network when the detection of the first phase connection is made. The Office Action asserts that the determination means corresponds with Blewett at column 11, lines 18-29, which relates to rules governing the establishment of a virtual private network (VPN). However, a VPN merely provides secure access (tunnel interface) through an unsecure network. This does not correspond with managing a profile that corresponds with a detected network when the first phase connection to the detected network has been detected when the information processing apparatus is moved into a location covered by the detected network.

The Office Action also asserts that Blewett describes the feature of “automatically establishing a second [phase] connection” to the detecting network based on the managed profile. The Office Action relies on Blewett’s description of the recognition of reply packets to translate a destination address for routing a particular packet to a host in a worknet. This is a firewall feature that does not correspond with managing the profile corresponding to the detected network, as claimed.

Applicants agree that Blewett is silent with regard to establishing means for establishing the switcher as claimed. For this feature the Office Action relies on Cho. Cho

however is not different than the prior art discussed in the background of the present specification, (see e.g., page 2). Here, Cho describes at column 12, lines 18-33 the changing from outdoor network to an indoor network when the user moves indoors. Claim 1, for example has been amended to clarify that the switcher is configured to switch access to the detected network using the first phase connection and the second phase connection as discussed earlier in the claim. Thus, the switcher uses both the detection of the detected network, and then the second phase connection, which was established when the determination means determined that the managing means actually manages the profile corresponding to the detected network. Cho does not have this feature, which the present inventor recognizes is a problem with conventional devices.

Accordingly, when Claim 1, as amended, is considered as a whole, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Blewett in view of Cho do not fairly teach the combination of managing settings for connectable network as profiles, detecting a first connection to a detected network when the apparatus is moved into a location covered by the detected network, determination means that determines that there is a profile managed for that detected network, and then automatically establishing a second phase connection if the profile is managed, as claimed. Accordingly, as not all the features of the present invention are described in Blewett in view of Cho, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 1 patentably defines over Blewett in view of Cho.

Claims 3, 5-6, 8-9 and 11 are also believed to patentably define over Blewett in view of Cho for substantially the same reasons discussed above with regard to amended Claim 1.

Claims 2, 4, 7 and 10 are rejected over Blewett and Cho in view of a tertiary reference. Assuming arguendo that the tertiary reference does disclose the more detailed

feature included in Claims 2, 4, 7 and 10, even these disclosures do not cure the deficiencies discussed above with regard to amended Claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 2, 4, 7 and 10 also patentably define over the asserted prior art.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-11, as amended, patentably define over the asserted prior art. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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